

## **Abstract**

TITLE: Nature Discovery Camp

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### **ABSTRACT:**

Place-based education and outdoor summer enrichment programs may increase positive interest in nature exploration and foster environmental stewardship in elementary aged children. Research suggests that while children learn about nature and environmental issues in school through science and social studies curricula, they may not receive the type of interaction in the outdoor environment that fosters a life-long desire to explore their local environment or become environmental stewards as adults. This project includes development of a "Nature Discovery Camp" curricula and supporting materials for facilitators. Nature Discovery Camp, a 5 day residential camp, is held for children ages 8-12 and provides environmental experiences that support naturalistic intelligence, social and spiritual development, as well as building upon a child's natural interest in their surroundings. This project argues for purposeful development of curricula and activities that are designed to cultivate naturalistic intelligence within the children participating in Nature Discovery Camp.